

Best places to catch a wave!



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm



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North Korea's Kim vows the toughest anti-US policy before Trump takes office

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to implement the "toughest" anti-U.S. policy, state media reported Sunday, less than a month before Donald Trump takes office as U.S. president.

Trump's return to the White House raises prospects for high-profile diplomacy with North Korea. During his first term, Trump met Kim three times for talks on the North's nuclear program. Many experts however say a quick resumption of Kim-Trump summitry is unlikely as Trump would first focus on conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. North Korea's support for Russia's war against



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech at a meeting held during Dec. 23 until Dec. 27, 2024, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Associated Press.

Ukraine also poses a challenge to efforts to revive diplomacy, experts say. During a five-day plenary meeting of the ruling Work-

ers' Party that ended Friday, Kim called the U.S. "the most reactionary state that regards anti-communism as its invariable state policy."

Kim said that the U.S.-South Korea-Japan security partnership is expanding into "a nuclear military bloc for aggression."

"This reality clearly shows to which direction we should advance and what we should do and how," Kim said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

It said Kim's speech "clarified the strategy for the toughest anti-U.S. counteraction to be launched aggressively" by North Korea for its long-term national interests and security.

KCNA didn't elaborate on the anti-U.S. strategy. But it said Kim set forth tasks to bolster military capability through defense technology advancements and stressed the need to improve the mental toughness of North Korean soldiers.

The previous meetings between Trump and Kim had not only put an end to their

exchanges of fiery rhetoric and threats of destruction, but they developed personal connections.

Trump once famously said he and Kim "fell in love." But their talks eventually collapsed in 2019, as they wrangled over U.S.-led sanctions on the North.

North Korea has since sharply increased the pace of its weapons testing activities to build more reliable nuclear missiles targeting the U.S. and its allies. The U.S. and South Korea have responded by expanding their military bilateral drills and also trilateral ones involving Japan, drawing strong rebukes from the North, which views such U.S.-led exercises as invasion rehearsals.

Further complicating efforts to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons in return for economic and political benefits is its deepening military cooperation with Russia. □



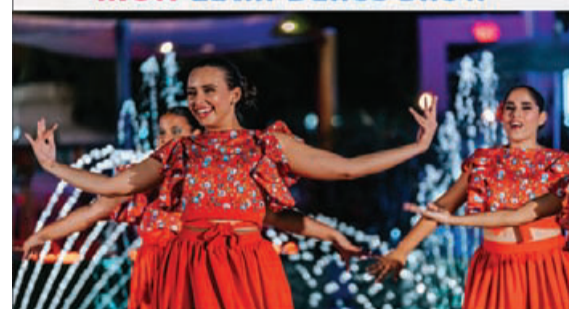
Live Entertainment at 8PM



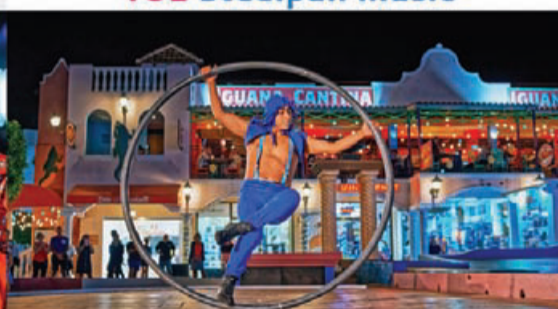
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Nasty norovirus is back in full force with US cases of the stomach virus surging

By **ANITA SNOW**

Associated Press

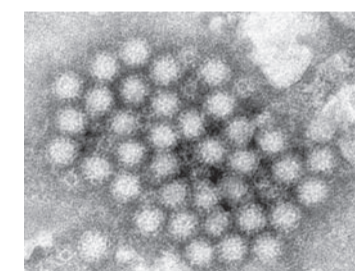
Cases of a wretched stomach bug are surging in parts of the United States this winter, according to government data.

The most recent numbers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show there were 91 outbreaks of norovirus reported during the week of Dec. 5, up from 69 outbreaks the last week of November. Numbers from the past few years show a maximum of 65 outbreaks reported during that first week of December.

A norovirus infection is characterized by sudden vomiting and diarrhea. Outbreaks are often seen on cruise ships, in congregate living situations like nursing homes and jails, as well as schools and places where people are close together. Here are a few things to know about the virus.

What is norovirus?

Norovirus is the leading



This electron microscope image provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a cluster of norovirus virions.

Associated Press.

cause of foodborne illness in the United States, responsible for 58% of such infections acquired in the country each year, according to the CDC. Norovirus infections are caused by a group of viruses that spread easily, with as few as 10 viral particles having the ability to make someone sick, health experts say. There are about 2,500 norovirus outbreaks reported annually in the United States. The outbreaks can occur throughout the year but are most common from November to April. □

Tornadoes in Texas and Mississippi kill 2 as storm system moves across southern U.S.

By **MAKIYA SEMINERA and JAMIE STENGLE**
Associated Press

Officials were beginning to assess the damage on Sunday after a strong storm system moved across the southeastern U.S. over the weekend, killing at least two people when tornadoes touched down in Texas and Mississippi.

The line of severe weather led to about 40 tornado reports from southeastern Texas to Alabama, National Weather Service meteorologist Frank Pereira said, but those reports remain unconfirmed until damage surveys are completed.

"It's not unheard of, but it is fairly uncommon to have a severe weather outbreak of this magnitude this late in the year," he said. The storms will continue to slide east until they eventually move offshore, meaning severe weather risks will dwindle into Sunday evening.

In the Houston area, National Weather Service crews planned to conduct surveys Sunday for at least five tornadoes that hit north and south of the city on Saturday. At least one person died.

The 48-year-old woman killed was found about 100 feet (30 meters) from her home in the Liverpool area, located south of Houston,



Saul Rodriguez uses a chain saw to remove debris atop a car from a woman's home after strong thunderstorms pass through the Greater Houston region, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, in Porter Heights. Associated Press.

said Madison Polston of the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office. She said the exact cause of death wasn't immediately known.

Four other people in Brazoria County suffered injuries that weren't considered critical, said Polston, who added that at least 40 homes and buildings were significantly damaged in the county.

In Mississippi, one person died in Adams County and two people were injured in Franklin County, according to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

The National Weather Service said two tornadoes hit around Bude and the city of Brandon, ripping roofs from several buildings.

Storm damage was reported in the northern Alabama town of Athens, just northwest of Huntsville. A National Weather Service survey team was expected to begin assessing damage Sunday morning, said meteorologist Chelly Amin.

Holly Hollman, spokeswoman for the city of Athens, said she lives about two blocks from downtown, where most of the dam-

age from the early Sunday morning storms occurred. Hollman said the storm hurled large HVAC units from the tops of building, ripped the roof off a bookstore and damaged a brick building adjacent to a veteran's museum. A full-sized, stripped down military helicopter was toppled from a pole where it was on display, she added.

"I stepped out on my porch and I could hear it roar," she said. "I think we are extremely lucky that we got hit late at night. If it had hit during the busy hours, I

think we might have had some injuries and possibly some fatalities."

At 9 a.m. Sunday, nearly 65,000 customers were without power in Mississippi, down from 93,000 around 1 a.m., according to electric utility tracking website PowerOutage.us. Also without power were some 54,000 customers in Georgia; 36,000 in Alabama; 20,000 in Louisiana; and 13,000 in Texas.

Two roads were closed in western North Carolina — a region broadly devastated by Hurricane Helene this fall — as of late Sunday morning because of severe weather, North Carolina Department of Transportation spokesperson Jamie Kritzer said.

Part of U.S. 441, also known as the Great Smoky Mountains Expressway, was closed in both directions in Swain County north of Bryson City, due to high winds. It was expected to reopen on Monday. Another road in Macon County near Franklin — State Road 1672, also known as River Road — was closed Sunday morning due to high water and was slated to reopen Sunday afternoon. The storms moved quickly through Georgia, where there were reports of trees toppled in the Atlanta area. □

Trump appears to side with Musk, tech allies in debate over foreign workers roiling his supporters

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump appears to be siding with Elon Musk and his other backers in the tech industry as a dispute over immigration visas has divided his supporters.

Trump, in an interview with the New York Post on Saturday, praised the use of visas to bring skilled foreign workers to the U.S. The topic has become a flashpoint within his conservative base.

"I've always liked the visas, I have always been in favor of the visas. That's why we have them," Trump said.

In fact, Trump has in the past criticized the H-1B visas, calling them "very bad" and "unfair" for U.S. workers. During his first term as president, he unveiled a "Hire American" policy that directed changes to the program to try to ensure the visas were awarded to the highest-paid or most-skilled applicants.

Despite his criticism of them

and attempts to curb their use, he has also used the visas at his businesses in the past, something he acknowledged in his interview Saturday.

"I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I've been a believer in H-1B. I have used it many times. It's a great program," Trump told the newspaper.

He did not appear to address questions about whether he would pursue any changes to the number or use of the visas once



President-elect Donald Trump listens to Elon Musk as he arrives to watch SpaceX's mega rocket Starship lift off for a test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Nov. 19, 2024. Associated Press.

he takes office Jan. 20. Trump's hardline immigration policies, focused mostly on immigrants who are in

the country illegally, were a cornerstone of his presidential campaign and a priority issue for his supporters. □

Bolivia's former leader Evo Morales seeks a political comeback from his stronghold in the tropics

By ISABEL DEBRE and JUAN KARITA

Associated Press

LAUCA Ñ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia's former leader Evo Morales has a campaign pitch for 2025 that has worked elsewhere: Other politicians of recent years have brought you nothing but misery. It's time for a return to the past. His supporters are looking to Morales for a rescue from the five tumultuous years since his 2019 resignation. The country's first Indigenous president, Morales is credited with spreading the wealth of a commodities boom and ushering in a rare stretch of social and economic stability during his nearly 14 years in office. His detractors say Morales — who built an economy uncomfortably dependent on natural gas reserves and sought to stay in power longer than Bolivia's constitution allows — bears responsibility for much of the turmoil that followed his tenure.

An ally turned rival

A bitter political battle is looming between Morales, 65, and his former economy minister and once-protégé, President Luis Arce, over who will lead their long-dominant leftist Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, into the August 2025 election.

Arce has unleashed allies in the judiciary against Morales, with the Constitutional Court disqualifying Morales' candidacy and ousting him from the leadership of MAS, a party he helped found in the 1990s.

Prosecutors in mid-December charged Morales with statutory rape for fathering a child with a 15-year-old girl when he was 56 and president. Morales didn't deny the relationship but accused Arce of deploying a "dirty, odious" campaign to undermine him.

Fighting from the tropics

Since talk of his arrest warrant surfaced in September, Morales has been holed up in Bolivia's coca-growing region of Chapare, ringed by loyal supporters.

Here, the former coca farmer and fiery union leader — long considered one of the last of the so-called "pink wave"



Former President Evo Morales chews coca in the Lauca N, Chapare region of Bolivia, Nov. 3, 2024, amid an ongoing political conflict with the government of President Luis Arce.

Associated Press.

of leftist leaders who once dominated Latin American politics — is planning his comeback. Few outsiders are allowed inside his stronghold in Bolivia's steamy lowlands, but The Associated Press was invited last month for a look from behind the barricades.

"They don't want me to be the candidate because they know I'll win," Morales told the AP. "We're in a state of total siege, morally, legally and politically."

The four-hour drive to Chapare from Bolivia's third-biggest city of Cochabamba is steep and slick with mist.

A narcotics checkpoint from the U.S.-financed war on drugs that wreaked havoc across this jungle is far less intimidating than the makeshift checkpoints manned by Morales' followers.

In the 'Land of Evo'

As the van rumbled on, Pedro Cepita, a guide tasked with accompanying the AP, pointed out Morales' accomplishments in the long-stigmatized Chapare — university buildings, cell towers, an airport, a 25,000-seat soccer stadium.

Morales' face adorns murals alongside cult heroes like Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. "Evo 2025-2030" slogans blanket brick houses. "We're in la Tierra de Evo," Cepita said — the Land of Evo. At sandbagged checkpoints, Morales' support-

ers — some with batons on their belts — waved the van through only after recognizing Cepita.

Security forces, chased out by Morales' followers, rarely venture here. Door-knocking census workers — even emergency rescuers responding to a deadly landslide last month — said they were harassed and kicked out by Morales' coca union activists. Earlier this month and after 40 days of negotiations, police began trickling back.

Almost divine reverence

Coca farmers drying their leaves proudly recount how Morales kicked out U.S. anti-drug agents almost in the same breath as they extoll the benefits of the coca plant, cherished by Indigenous communities and maligned by the West as the raw material for cocaine.

"Brother Evo was in these fields with us," said Jose Luis Calicho, 39, nodding toward Morales' own plot of land. "He knows we're not criminals, we're not narco-traffickers."

Since October, when gunmen opened fire at his convoy, Morales, who was unharmed, has slept inside the fortress-like compound of his coca-growing union. He says the shooting was an assassination attempt and blames Arce's government, which denies involvement.

Outside the high walls, dozens of his followers lounge

on tarps blocking the street. Some rest after all-night security shifts, others keep watch, their cheeks bulging with wads of coca — a mild stimulant. "It's our responsibility to Evo, we can't take chances," said Reyna Peñaloza, 44. "With us, he'll return to power."

A stark disconnect

Those who believe Morales' comeback can close the door on years of political and economic paralysis are less clear about the kind of future he could bring.

"When I came to power in 2005, the nation was suffering, and I transformed it," Morales said. "Now our crisis is even worse. We don't have fuel, we don't have dollars." Most Bolivians, stinging from surging inflation and waiting in long lines to fill their tanks, agree on that.

But attitudes toward Morales are starkly different in his remote redoubt in Chapare and the rest of the country of 12 million — especially when it comes to the 2016 statutory rape case that indelibly tarnished his reputation.

In the upscale districts of La Paz, the capital, residents say they're repulsed by his actions. Freshly painted graffiti asks: "Would you vote for a pedophile?"

"The political damage to Evo's good image is devastating," said Romer Alejo, a criminal lawyer in La Paz.

Informal efforts to gauge

public opinion in La Paz suggests that two or three out of every 10 Bolivians would vote for him.

His critics condemn Morales' constitution-bending efforts to hold onto power longer than any leader in Bolivia's modern history.

"We're at a breaking point," said Martín Sivak, the author of a biography on Morales. "There's a verdict from Bolivians on this idea of staying in power for too long."

A long way to go

Legal troubles aside, whether Morales can reclaim his party and the country's top job is unclear. His supporters say he'll find a way around the court ban — perhaps by launching a new party.

But the packed crowds of 2014 are no longer there.

A recent MAS congress in Chapare declared Morales was the party's "only legitimate candidate," but a "Viva, Evo!" chant faded quickly in the half-full auditorium. Still, Bolivia's right-wing opposition is fractured. Protests are mounting over Arce's failure to halt a currency collapse. Morales' supporters threaten to convulse the country if he's not on the ballot. "We'll win through our struggle," Morales loyalist and lawmaker Alina Canaviri Sullcani said. "There's no alternative."

Even if Morales has become too divisive, without him, many fear the long unstable Andean nation could veer back toward chaos.

Morales' 2019 ouster elevated a right-wing interim president, Jeanine Áñez, who cracked down on her political opponents and sought to purge Morales' legacy.

On a hot, sticky morning last month, Morales emerged from his hideout with heavy security, to check on his fields. As he hunched over to cut weeds, his aides pulled out their smartphones to film him — a throwback to the early 2000s, when videos of the son of llama farmers in his humble alpaca sweater were a magnet for foreign media. But Morales didn't seem to notice. When everyone had gone, he kept on working. He said he wasn't close to finishing. □

Putin apologizes for 'tragic incident' but stops short of saying Azerbaijani plane was shot down

By The Associated Press.

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday apologized to his Azerbaijani counterpart for what he called a “tragic incident” following the crash of an Azerbaijani airliner in Kazakhstan that killed 38 people, but stopped short of acknowledging that Moscow was responsible.

Putin's apology came as allegations mounted that the plane had been shot down by Russian air defenses attempting to deflect a Ukrainian drone strike near Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya. An official Kremlin statement issued Saturday said that air defense systems were firing near Grozny airport as the airliner “repeatedly” attempted to land there on Wednesday. It did not explicitly say one of these hit the plane.

The statement said Putin apologized to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev “for the fact that the tragic incident occurred in Russian airspace.”

The readout said Russia has launched a criminal probe into the incident, and Azerbaijani state prosecutors have arrived in Grozny to participate. The Kremlin also said that “relevant services” from Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are jointly investigating the crash site near the



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a Security Council meeting via videoconference at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024.

city of Aktau in Kazakhstan. The plane was flying from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, to Grozny when it turned toward Kazakhstan, hundreds of kilometers (miles) across the Caspian Sea from its intended destination, and crashed while making an attempt to land. There were 29 survivors.

According to a readout of the call provided by Aliyev's press office, the Azerbaijani president told Putin that the plane was subject to “external physical and technical interference,” although he also stopped short of blaming

ing Russian air defenses.

Aliyev noted that the plane had multiple holes in its fuselage and that the occupants had sustained injuries “due to foreign particles penetrating the cabin mid-flight.” He said that a team of international experts had begun probing the incident at Azerbaijan's initiative, but provided no details. Earlier this week, the Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's office confirmed that investigators from Azerbaijan are working in Grozny.

On Friday, a U.S. official and an Azerbaijani minister made

separate statements blaming the crash on an external weapon, echoing those made by aviation experts who blamed the crash on Russian air defense systems responding to a Ukrainian attack. President Joe Biden, responding on Saturday to a reporter asking whether he thought Putin should take responsibility for the crash, said: “Apparently he did but I haven't spoken to him.” Biden made the comment after leaving church in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Passengers and crew who survived the crash told

Azerbaijani media that they heard loud noises on the aircraft as it was circling over Grozny.

Dmitry Yadrov, head of Russia's civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia, said Friday that as the plane was preparing to land in Grozny in deep fog, Ukrainian drones were targeting the city, prompting authorities to close the area to air traffic.

Yadrov said that after the captain made two unsuccessful attempts to land, he was offered other airports but decided to fly to Aktau. Earlier in the week, Rosaviatsia had cited unspecified early evidence as showing that a bird strike led to an emergency on board.

In the days following the crash, Azerbaijan Airlines blamed “physical and technical interference” and announced the suspension of flights to several Russian airports. It didn't say where the interference came from or provide any further details. If proven that the plane crashed after being hit by Russian fire, it would be the second deadly civil aviation accident linked to fighting in Ukraine. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed with a Russian surface-to-air missile, killing all 298 people aboard, as it flew over the area in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists in 2014. □

Belgium will ban sales of disposable e-cigarettes in a first for the EU

By SYLVAIN PLAZY and
MARK CARLSON

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium will ban the sale of disposable electronic cigarettes as of Jan. 1 on health and environmental grounds in a groundbreaking move for European Union nations. Health minister Frank Vandenbroucke said the inexpensive e-cigarettes had turned into a health threat since they are an easy way for teenagers to be drawn into smoking and get hooked on nicotine. “Disposable e-cigarettes is a new product simply designed

to attract new consumers,” he said in an interview.

“E-cigarettes often contain nicotine. Nicotine makes you addicted to nicotine. Nicotine is bad for your health. These are fact,” Vandenbroucke added.

Because they are disposable, the plastic, battery and circuits are a burden on the environment. On top of that, “they create hazardous waste chemicals still present in what people throw away,” Vandenbroucke said.

The health minister said he also targeted the disposable e-cigarettes because reus-

able ones could be a tool to help people quit smoking if they cannot find another way. Australia outlawed the sale of “vapes” outside pharmacies earlier this year in some of the world's toughest restrictions on electronic cigarettes. Now Belgium is leading the EU drive.

“We are the first country in Europe to do so,” Vandenbroucke said.

He wants tougher tobacco measures in the 27-nation bloc.

“We are really calling on the European Commission to come forward now with



Flavored varieties of disposable electronic cigarette devices are on display in a shop in Brussels on Dec. 12, 2024, ahead of Belgium's ban on the sale of disposable vapes as of Jan. 1, 2025. Associated Press.

new initiatives to update, to modernize, the tobacco legislation,” he said. There is understanding about

Belgium's decision, even in some shops selling electronic cigarettes, and especially on the environmental issue. □

Jetliner skids off runway and bursts into flames while landing in South Korea, killing 179



Firefighters and rescue team members work near the wreckage of a passenger plane at Muan International Airport in Muan, South Korea, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024.

Associated Press.

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— A jetliner skidded off a runway, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames Sunday in South Korea after its landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board were killed in one of the country's worst aviation disasters, officials said.

The 737-800 operated by Jeju Air plane arrived from Bangkok and crashed while attempting to land in the town of Muan, about 290 kilometers (180 miles) south of Seoul.

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, evidently with its landing gear still closed, and slamming into a concrete wall, triggering an explosion. Other TV stations aired footage showing thick, black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

The crash killed 179 people, the South Korean fire agency said. Emergency workers pulled two crew members, to safety. They were conscious and did not appear to have any life-

threatening injuries, health officials said. Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly still recognizable in the wreckage. Officials were investigating the cause of the crash, including whether the aircraft was struck by birds, Lee said.

The control tower issued a warning about birds to the plane shortly before it intended to land and gave the crew permission to land in a different area, ministry officials said. The crew sent out a distress signal shortly before the crash, officials said.

Senior Transport Ministry official Joo Jong-wan said workers retrieved the jet's flight data and cockpit voice recorders. He said it may take months for investigators to complete their probe. The runway at the Muan airport will be closed until Jan. 1, the ministry said. Kyle Bailey, former FAA safety team representative in the U.S., told Fox News that it appeared to him that the aircraft was traveling too fast as it skidded on the runway before striking what he believed was a structure that housed instrument landing equipment.

"I think that's pretty much what spelled disaster for that airplane," he said.

One of the survivors was being treated for fractures to his ribs, shoulder blade and upper spine, said Ju Woong, director of the Ewha Womans University Seoul Hospital. Ju said the man, whose name was not released, told doctors he "woke up to find (himself) rescued." Details on the other survivor were not immediately available.

The passengers were predominantly South Korean and included two people from Thailand. Officials identified 88 of them in the hours after the crash, the fire agency said.

Thailand's prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, expressed condolences to the families of those aboard the plane in a post on X. Paetongtarn said she ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide assistance. Boonchuay Duangmanee, the father of a Thai passenger, told The Associated Press that his daughter, Jongluk, had been working in a factory in South Korea for several years and returned to Thailand to visit her family.

"I never thought that this would be the last time we would see each other for-

ever," he said.

Kerati Kijmanawat, the director of Thailand's airports, confirmed in a statement that Jeju Air flight 7C 2216 departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport with no reports of anything abnormal aboard the aircraft or on the runway.

Jeju Air in a statement expressed its "deep apology" over the crash and said it will do its "utmost to manage the aftermath of the accident."

In a televised news conference, the company's president, Kim E-bae, bowed deeply with other senior company officials as he apologized to bereaved families and said he feels "full responsibility" for the crash. Kim said the company had not identified any mechanical problems with the aircraft following regular checkups and that he would wait for the results of government investigations into the cause of the incident.

Family members wailed as officials announced the names of some victims at a lounge in the Muan airport. Boeing said in a statement on X that it was in contact with Jeju Air and was ready to support the company in dealing with the crash.

The crash happened as

South Korea is embroiled in a political crisis triggered by President Yoon Suk Yeol's stunning imposition of martial law and ensuing impeachment. South Korean lawmakers on Friday impeached acting President Han Duck-soo and suspended his duties, leading Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok to take over. Choi, who traveled to the site in Muan, called for officials to use all available resources to identify the dead as soon as possible. The government declared Muan a special disaster zone and designated a weeklong national mourning period.

Yoon's office said his chief secretary, Chung Jin-suk, presided over an emergency meeting between senior presidential staff to discuss the crash and reported the details to Choi. Yoon expressed condolences to the victims in a Facebook posting.

In Rome's St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said he joined in "prayer for the survivors and the dead."

The Muan crash is one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history. The last time South Korea suffered a large-scale air disaster was in 1997, when a Korean Airline plane crashed in Guam, killing 228 people on board. In 2013, an Asiana Airlines plane crash-landed in San Francisco, killing three and injuring about 200.

Sunday's accident was also one of the worst landing mishaps since a July 2007 crash that killed all 187 people on board and 12 others on the ground when an Airbus A320 slid off a slick airstrip in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and hit a nearby building, according to data compiled by the Flight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit group aimed at improving air safety.

In 2010, 158 people died when an Air India Express aircraft overshot a runway in Mangalore, India, and plummeted into a gorge before erupting into flames, according to the safety foundation. □

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with



pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated

and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek



(gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side

of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face

a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Marlene Purdy from Fort Wayne, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "What is Aruba to me? If I had answered that question when my husband Lee and I came here the first time in 1978, I would have said the sun and the sand. But today our answer is quite different. Today, it is THE PEOPLE!

Our first trip here had us staying at the Aruba Caribbean (later the Golden Tulip, the Radisson and currently the Hilton). There were only four other hotels on Palm Beach at the time: The Concorde (later the Westin, Wyndham and now the Riu Antilles), the Sheraton (later the Aruba Palm Beach, the Aruba Grand and now part of the Riu Palace), the Americana (later the Allegro and now the Barcello) and the Holiday Inn. In 1980, we were at the Sheraton. On our trip here in 1982, we tried the brand new Ramada (now the building is part of Divi Phoenix). Our trip in 1985 had us back at

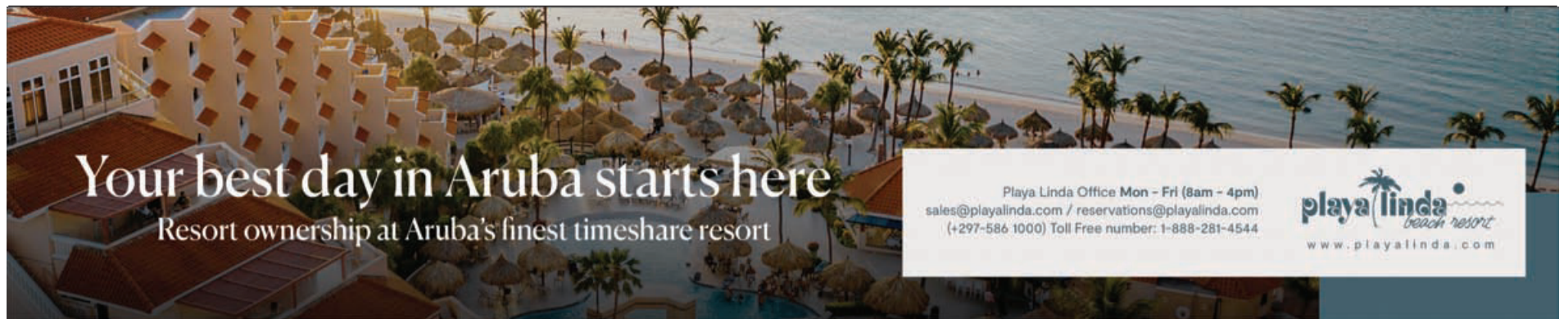
the Sheraton where we have stayed every time since then. Back in those days we did all the touristy things like snorkeling, visiting the Natural Bridge and the gold mine. We ate at Chez Mathilde's, Valentino's, and The Mill. Now that we are part of the Riu Palace, we have no need to leave the property (except to walk to the Butterfly Farm).

What we have found over the years in our travels is that meeting people and being exposed to other cultures is very important. What we have found in Aruba is a mix of native Arubans as well workers who have come from other countries. What they have in common is a friendliness not found in many places. Whether is it a server, a floor sweeper or management, they go out of their way to make one's vacation memorable. With hugs or fist bumps, they make one feel special.

We are pictured here celebrating the birthday of Victor Comacho from Save-neta, the pianist in the lobby bar at the Riu Palace.

So to us, Aruba is the people!" Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □





Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're want-

ing to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only acces-

sible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing

time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisherman's Hut, here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head

to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and



sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic

Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an un-

common sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

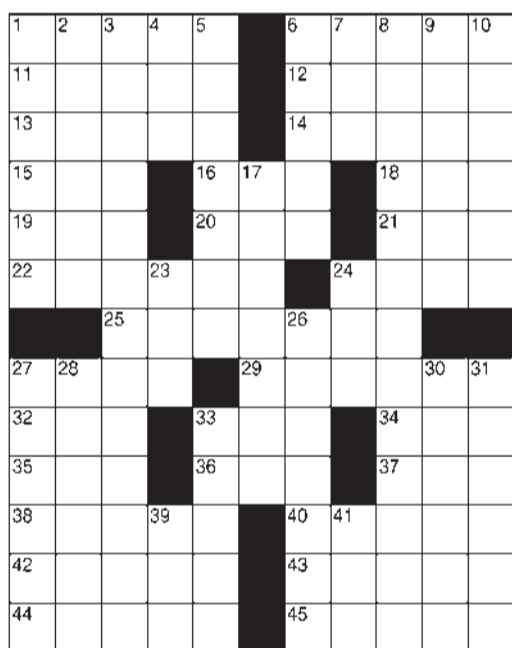
ACROSS 40 Terra —
1 Bulb units
6 Lesson leader
11 "Adam Bede" author
12 Chilled
13 Bugs bugs him

14 Big books
15 Word on a bill
16 Penny prez
18 Quarter-back Manning
19 Pitching stat
20 Walker, on a sign
21 Charged bit
22 Military alert status
24 Crumb carriers
25 Libya neighbor
27 Like an abyss
29 Jazz bands
32 Mess up
33 Suffer
34 Smelter supply
35 Contrived
36 Frilly wrap
37 Wee bit
38 Stage comment

DOWN
1 Did garden work
2 Attraction
3 #1 hit for Cyndi Lauper
4 Sock part
5 Attach, in a way
6 Carried
7 One, for Juan

BASES SLOTH
ERNIE LYDIA
ACORN ENEMY
WESSEX
LAT ELK HOE
EMILIO TAPS
FOREST FIRES
TREE TUNDRA
YES WES WAY
MEDICI
DOZEN LARVA
AHEAD LINEIN
SONNY INSET

8 #1 hit for Jim Croce
9 Spotted cat
10 Lacquer ingredients
17 Del Toro of "The Usual Suspects"
23 Recipe unit
24 Target
26 Comforts
27 Head out
28 Classroom need
30 Gave addresses
31 Some autos
33 Aids illegally
39 Game cube
41 Bullring cry



12-29

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

BCK IBB KQC WIMBXHCN SW
TSXH FINK TCIH DC TSXH
DCNK EXMLC MG KQC GCV
TCIH. — YCQYCK YXHIK
MBLIG

Cryptoquote: BIRDS SING AFTER A STORM: WHY SHOULDN'T PEOPLE FEEL AS FREE TO DELIGHT IN WHATEVER SUNLIGHT REMAINS TO THEM? — ROSE KENNEDY

Cruise ship Schedule: December 30 - 31 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	30	AIDAMAR	08.00	****	B	1
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN JEWEL	14.00	21.30	I	1
TUE	31	AIDAMAR - Dept	****	23.59	B	-
		VOLENDAM	08.00	23.00	C	1
		SEABOURN OVATION	08.00	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Cruise ship Schedule: January 1 - 2 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	01	AIDAMAR - Dept.	****	02.00	B	-
		OCEANIA SIRENA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	I	1
THU	02	ISLAND PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	C	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	I	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



buy bottled water from the store.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your be-

longings safe.

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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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elevator ocean view
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Building D
Price :\$8000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio wk # 5 room # 8105
Building D 1 st floor
Contract expire : 01/22/2037
Price :\$8000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi village Golf

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Room # 2118 birdie 3
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Price :\$9000
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953 One bedroom week 01
room # 654
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Price :\$60,000 both weeks
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Contract expire :31 st December
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Judge says woman accusing Jay-Z, Sean 'Diddy' Combs of raping her at age 13 can proceed anonymously

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An Alabama woman who says she was raped by Jay-Z and Sean "Diddy" Combs when she was 13 can proceed anonymously, for now, in her lawsuit against the rap moguls, a judge ruled Thursday.

In her written order, Judge Analisa Torres also chastised the lawyer representing Jay-Z for what she de-



Rap moguls Sean "Diddy" Combs, left, and Jay-Z attend the NBA All-Star basketball game, Feb. 15, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press.

scribed as his combative motions and "inflammatory language" against the plaintiff's lawyer, calling them inappropriate. The Manhattan jurist said the woman can proceed anonymously at this early stage of the litigation, but

she may be required to reveal her identity at a later date, if the case proceeds. That would allow defense lawyers to collect facts necessary to prepare for trial. Torres also cited "substantial interest" from the public. Combs remains jailed in New York awaiting a criminal trial on federal sex trafficking charges. He also faces a wave of sexual assault lawsuits, many of which were filed by the plaintiff's lawyer, Tony Buzbee, a Texas attorney who says his firm represents over 150 people, both men and women, who allege sexual abuse and exploitation by Combs. The lawsuits allege many

individuals were abused at parties in New York, California and Florida after receiving drug-laced drinks. Combs' lawyers have dismissed Buzbee's lawsuits as "shameless publicity stunts, designed to extract payments from celebrities who fear having lies spread about them, just as lies have been spread about Mr. Combs." Jay-Z has said in a statement that Buzbee is trying to blackmail him to settle the Alabama woman's allegations. Buzbee said in an email that his firm does not comment on court rulings. In her lawsuit, the woman who says she was raped at 13 identifies herself as "Jane Doe." She said she

was living in Rochester in 2000 when she made her way to New York City and befriended a limousine driver who drove her to an after-party for the MTV Music Awards, where she says she was eventually attacked by Jay-Z and Combs.

Alex Spiro, a lawyer for Jay-Z, asked the judge to dismiss the entertainer from the woman's lawsuit and he requested a hearing on the case for the day after he made his requests in writing on Dec. 18.

Citing an interview the plaintiff did on NBC-TV, Spiro wrote that the broadcast revealed "glaring inconsistencies and outright impossibilities" in the plaintiff's story. For one thing, the woman said she traveled for five hours from Rochester to watch the music awards show on a jumbotron outside the VMA even though permits and pictures show there was no jumbotron at the event. Spiro also noted that the woman's father has said he does not recall driving from Rochester to pick his daughter up in New York City, as she says he did.

The woman has admitted inconsistencies in her story. Torres wrote in her order Thursday that Spiro, who has been on the case less than three weeks, has submitted a "litany of letters and motions attempting to impugn the character of Plaintiff's lawyer, many of them expounding on the purported 'urgency' of this case."

Referring to Jay-Z by his legal last name, the judge added: "Carter's lawyer's relentless filing of combative motions containing inflammatory language and ad hominem attacks is inappropriate, a waste of judicial resources, and a tactic unlikely to benefit his client. The Court will not fast-track the judicial process merely because counsel demands it."

A message seeking comment from Spiro was left for him on Thursday. □



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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



Cardinals' Trey McBride reaches milestones, but deflection off helmet leads to loss

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) —

Trey McBride became the 10th tight end in NFL history to have 100 catches in a season and had one of the best games of his three-year career Saturday night for the Arizona Cardinals.

However, an unlucky bounce prevented the Cardinals from rallying for a victory over the Los Angeles Rams Saturday night. The Cardinals had first-and-goal at the 5 in the final minute, but Kyler Murray's pass deflected off McBride's helmet in the end zone. Rams cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon made a fingertip grab for the interception, preserving Los Angeles' 13-9 victory.

Murray compared the loss to a 2021 defeat in Green Bay, where the Cardinals drove down the field, but Murray's pass was picked off in the end zone, allowing the Packers to hold on for a 24-21 victory.

"I can think of a couple of games I played where we drove all the way down and felt like for sure we were going to win the game," Murray said. "Like that feeling of we drove down the field. There's nothing the defense could do with us. We were kind of having our way and at the end a (lousy) turn of events. That's what it comes down to. We were unlucky."

McBride tied a career high with 12 catches, and the 123 receiving yards were his second-highest total. He is the first tight end in franchise history to reach the century mark in receptions.

"He made a lot of plays. I thought he had some great catch and runs," coach Jonathan Gannon said.

McBride also reached the end zone for the first time this season on a 1-yard reception midway through the third quarter to get the Cardinals to 10-6.

However, Chad Ryland's extra point was blocked by linebacker Michael Hoecht, which is why the Cardinals had to go for a go-ahead touchdown instead of a game-tying field goal at the end.

"It was a little leaky in the

protection. Hoecht does a good job. We have to be a little better in technique there," Gannon said.

Murray tried to go to McBride in the end zone on two previous plays on that drive before they connected. The second one ended up being negated by a holding penalty on Hoecht, which gave the Cardinals first-and-goal at the 1. "I think (offensive coordinator) Drew (Petzing) was calling for that moment. I was glad to get him in the end zone. Wish we would have had another one," said Murray, who completed 33 of 48 passes for 321 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

McBride has at least seven catches and 70 yards in five of his past six. He has 104 receptions for 1,081 yards. The

record for receptions by a tight end in a season is 116 by Philadelphia's Zach Ertz in 2018. Kansas City's Travis Kelce has the yardage mark with 1,416 in 2020.

Besides McBride, Gannon and Murray were encouraged by Marvin Harrison Jr.'s night. The rookie, who was the fourth overall pick in April's NFL draft, tied a season high with six catches for 96 yards. "In your rookie year, you want to get better every week. The game has to slow down for him," Murray said. "The reps are priceless. He is getting continuity with me and learning the nuances of the game. During the offseason, we can get to go to work." After being 6-4 and leading the NFC West at the bye week, the Cardinals have



Arizona Cardinals tight end Trey McBride (85) makes a catch while Los Angeles Rams safety Quentin Lake tackles him during the first half of an NFL football game Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press.

dropped four of five and are guaranteed their third straight losing season.

"When we play our brand of ball, we can compete and

beat anyone, but it doesn't mean a lot right now," Gannon said. "I know we're close. We're there, but we're not there." □



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Moeller earns first World Cup win as another injured skier is airlifted off 2026 Olympics slope

By **DANIELLA MATAR**
AP Sports Writer

(AP) — Fredrik Moeller of Norway claimed his first World Cup victory by winning a super-G that got off to an inauspicious start on Sunday as Gino Caviezel became the third skier this weekend to be airlifted off the slope set to be used for the 2026 Olympics. After Alexis Monney's debut World Cup win in the downhill the previous day, Moeller also recorded his first victory on the circuit with an early benchmark run down the fearsome Stelvio slope to finish 0.20 seconds ahead of Austrian skier Vincent Kriechmayr.

"It feels really good," Moeller said. "My skiing was obviously good. It felt like I had some mistakes, which I did, but they weren't that costly. I managed to ski well where I know I can, and not do anything stupid."

Monney, who was 27th out of the gate, threatened to knock Moeller out of the leader's chair after the Swiss skier recovered from a poor start but finished third, just four hundredths of a second behind



The winner Norway's Fredrik Moeller celebrates after an alpine ski, men's World Cup Super G race, in Bormio, Italy, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024.

Kriechmayr — to Moeller's obvious relief.

"It's crazy. I don't know really what to say and I don't realize what happened this weekend," Monney told The Associated Press. "The Olympics is still far away, but for sure the slope I like it a lot." Like Monney, Moeller had never even been on the podium prior to this weekend.

His previous best finish was fourth.

But the young guns clearly enjoyed the Stelvio, where the men's Alpine skiing events are set to take place in 14 months at the Milan-Cortina Olympics.

"Incredible. I'm 33 years old, and they keep pushing all the time," Kriechmayr said. "They are always on the limit."

Now I think you have to be 100% from top to bottom, and if you're not searching for the limit you're not able to beat them.

"It's good to know what I have to do, but it's incredible what they are doing now."

Both Monney and Moeller are 24.

"Yeah it's crazy, it's really nice that we can push a bit

the older ones, get better maybe," Monney added with a laugh.

Monney's more lauded teammate Marco Odermatt leaves Bormio without a podium finish this weekend. As in the downhill, the three-time overall champion was fifth, sandwiched between two other Swiss teammates — Stefan Rogentin and Franjo von Allmen.

It was a miserable day for compatriot Caviezel, however. The 32-year-old was first out of the gates but crashed heavily early on and was taken to hospital by helicopter. French standout Cyprien Sarrazin and Italian Pietro Zazzi were also taken off the slope by helicopter after crashing in separate incidents in downhill training on Friday.

Sarrazin underwent surgery to drain a bleed near the brain while Zazzi had an operation on his leg.

Odermatt still leads the super-G standings but has seen his advantage cut to just five points by Moeller. He leads the overall standings by 161 points. □



Chicago Blackhawks' Alec Martinez plays during an NHL hockey game, on Nov. 23, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press.

By The Associated Press
(AP) — Blackhawks defenseman Alec Martinez and

forward Craig Smith could return in time for the NHL Winter Classic.

Alec Martinez and Craig Smith could return for the Blackhawks in the Winter Classic

Martinez and Smith participated in the team's optional morning skate ahead of Sunday night's game against the Dallas Stars. Martinez was placed on injured reserve on Dec. 13 because of a neck injury, and Smith went on IR on Dec. 20 with a back injury. Interim coach Anders Sorensen described Martinez and Smith as day to day.

"They're close," Sorensen said. Martinez and Smith signed with Chicago in free agency last summer. Martinez has one goal and three

assists in 15 games, and Smith has six goals and four assists in 26 games.

The Blackhawks host the St. Louis Blues on Tuesday in the Winter Classic at Wrigley Field — home of baseball's Chicago Cubs.

The Blackhawks shuffled their defensemen ahead of their matchup with Dallas, recalling Wyatt Kaiser from Rockford and assigning Kevin Korchiński to their American Hockey League affiliate.

The 20-year-old Korchiński, who was selected by

Chicago with the No. 7 pick in the 2022 draft, had five goals and 10 assists in 76 games with the Blackhawks last season. He was brought up by Chicago on Dec. 8 and skated in nine games before he was sent back down.

"If you look at his overall development, throughout the season, he's taken big steps forward in his development," Sorensen said. "We saw flashes of that early when he was up here and we want to make sure he stays on that track." □